

FISCAL NOTE

HB 560 - SB 1070

May 24, 1999

SUMMARY OF BILL: Significantly revises the procedures for civil commitment of persons with serious mental illness. Specifies the person's right to evaluation, legal counsel and treatment in the least restrictive environment. The person detained is responsible for treatment to the extent possible but the bill makes county government responsible for treatment of committed persons in some instances. Local government is also responsible for the cost of legal counsel for indigents. A person is also given the right to refuse psychotic medication unless ordered by the court. The bill sets out strict time limits for actions by the court including mandatory professional evaluations, and sets the length of detention under certain circumstances. The bill also lists standards for extending periods of involuntary commitment but facilities may release a patient prior to the end of the commitment if they no longer pose a threat. At release the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is required to provide clothing and a sum of money equal to that received by Department of Correction inmates.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$15,300,000

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - \$6,500,000

Estimate assumes that:

- the state will be responsible for evaluations prior to court hearings except those for private facilities. This will create a need for 24 evaluation teams at an annual cost of \$577,000 for each team.
- the state will fund extended commitments during the hearing process and pay subsidies to persons when released from commitment.
- local government is responsible for legal fees for indigents and for evaluation and treatment of all indigent persons in private facilities.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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